



INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

U.S. IS BACK



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrives at Don Muang airport in Bangkok, Thailand, on Tuesday, July 21, 2009. Clinton is on a three-day visit to Thailand.

See World News Page 6

SPORTS NEWS

MANNY'S MANTLE



Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez reacts after striking out during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Monday, July 20, 2009, in Los Angeles. Ramirez moved past Mickey Mantle and into 15th place on the career home run list.

See Sports Today Page 10

Lotus Foundation presents

Inspirational Speaker Crystal Andrus hosts workshop

Discovering the Secrets to Creating and Sustaining Massive Success!



ORANJESTAD - Last Saturday at the ATIA Building, 4 dozen women participated in a very special seminar workshop lead by the incredible Public Speaker Crystal Andrus. Crystal has spoken before in Aruba and by great applaud was welcomed back for a second appearance. The inspiring event was brought to Aruba by the inspiring Michelle Winklaar, who recently announced her career change into politics. Dedicated to helping women

world-wide feel beautiful, feminine, healthy, and empowered--in body, mind, & spirit, Crystal Andrus is a leader in the field of self-discovery and personal power. A former 200 lb stay-at-home mom turned best-selling author, radio host, integrative life coach, fitness specialist, holistic nutritionist, and single mother of two, Crystal has weaved the tumultuous and triumphant stories of her own life into a courageous journey of healing, health and ultimate self-empowerment that has inspired thousands.

Continued on Next Page



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Inspirational Speaker Crystal Andrus hosts workshop



Continued from Front Page

Sharing the stage with motivational giants like Dr. Phil, Robin Sharma, Louise Hay, Debbie Ford, Dr. Wayne Dyer, and Cheryl Richardson, Crystal's passionate and

profound message continually takes her audiences on an emotional rollercoaster of a ride that leaves them ready to become the hero of their own lives! □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Day 2 the final day of freestyle was a light wind day. The wind was truly disappointing but the ABC freestyle posse took it in stride and made the best of it, in fact some of the sailors excel in light winds putting on quite the show. The crowd favorites are clearly the baby kids. For the girls Koleta Abrahamsz placed first and Faye Larlo Scheper of Curacao placed 4th. For the boys, Jursten Trinidad placed first, Nicolas Verploeg placed second, Terrence Anthony third and Harley

David Jenkins 4th. In the boys 8-10 category Bonaire rider, Rover Dullart won the heats. This young kid has been training and hanging with the pros and it shows. He is a rider to see at future pro podiums. Aron Etmon of Curacao placed second, Serginho Finies of Bonaire placed third and Christopher Thuis of Curacao won 4th. It was a fun heat to watch. In the boys 10-11, Aruba's Steven Lageveen won the title sailing his rainbow Hot Sail.

Grande Finale Day 2 Freestyle in Bonaire

He tossed a few Gecko Flakas, Vulcan's and switch stance moves. Jurgen Saragoza of Aruba placed second. He performed a jump tack and other light wind moves. Mitchell de Palm of Curacao has been practicing at home as he placed third thanks to a few one handed tricks. Shepherd Gustowski placed 4th sailing for Bonaire. He also performed well in incredibly light wind. Team Aruba was neck and neck when Nick van den Erenbeemt and Mathias Ver Ploeg duked it out. Kaj van de Lubbe was pulling off his moves early on and as the day progressed pushed it to the limits in the boys 12-13 group. Nick's Spock 540 was impressive and Mathias pulled off a clean gecko. In the end, Nick's smooth moves won him the title. Nick left early to attend Cabarete Race Week. In the boys 14-15 Amado Vrieswijk maintained his title throwing some clean Grubby's, E Sliders and Spock 540's. Rich was showing the judges some impressive 1 handed Spocks and heli tacks while

Dylan was a sail flip wiz. In the girls, Nicole Van der Velden from team Aruba won with her sail finesse. Iris Jasperse from Bonaire was a wiz at light wind sail flipping making the crowd dizzy with her display. Andrea Simal from Bonaire came in third after a set of nice sail flips and tacks. In the boys 17-18 there was a showdown of some fierce freestyle moves. The winner, Bjorn Saragoza of Bonaire won the title thanks to a dazzling set of freestyle. A crowd favorite was his Cana Brabu named after the local band of Bonaire. Endro Finies placed second showing off some smooth moves including a nice switch stance Chacho. Victor Wederfoort from Curacao has clearly been training hard and placed third. Hendryck Balentien a team rider for RRD placed 4th showing a nice display of freestyle in his heats. In the boys 19+ Kiri Thode came away as the reigning champion. Despite hardly any wind, he wowed the crowd

with some sick aerial freestyle including Ponch's, Funnels and more. Caesar Finies, the star and creator of Flowstyle sent the crowd to their feet with his sail dynamics. He placed second. Jaeger Sint Jago from Bonaire placed third showing off some rail rides and other light wind techniques. Aruba's Sara Quita Offringa flew Sunday to Fuertaventure missing her second day of heats. The awards ceremony was an incredible event. Recognition was given to Jopi Soleano who hand crafted the lovely trophies. All the sponsors were present to present awards including Hot Sails owner Jeff Henderson who flew in from Hawaii to see his team. Lt. Governor Thode, a windsurfer himself presented awards as well. The Bolas champions won prizes for their weekend competition. After, Rincon Boys serenaded the huge crowd into the night. It was a wonderful weekend of freestyle and beach culture on Bonaire. □



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Godfather of Calypso Mighty Sparrow visits Minister Lee



ORANJESTAD - On the godfather of Calypso Monday gone on July 20th, Music the Mighty Sparrow

visited the the Minister of Culture Ramon Lee. Sparrow, who was on the Island to receive and view a homage paid to him, was accompanied by a well know figures on the Island: Baba Charlie and Marlene Lampe of the Culture Department. During his visit to the Secretary of Culture many topics were discussed Mighty Sparrow real name is Slinger Francisco. □



New confirmed H1N1 cases for St. Maarten

~ H1N1 virus fairly contained in Netherlands Antilles ~

PHILIPSBURG -- St. Maarten has two new confirmed cases of the influenza virus A H1N1, according to National Epidemiologist Dr. Izzy Gerstenbluth.

In a press conference held by the Preventive Health Department (PHD) on Monday, Dr. Gerstenbluth announced the latest statistics on the spread of the virus throughout the Netherlands Antilles, noting that there had been 28 confirmed cases over the last three months. In St. Maarten, he said, there were a total of 10 confirmed cases, in Curaçao there were 13, Bonaire four and St. Eustatius one. The two new infected persons in St. Maarten, confirmed on Sunday, are already in the recovery phase.

According to PHD Acting Head Maria Henry, their infection was travel-related. While on a cruise that made stops in Mexico, Panama and Miami, amongst other places, two 12-year-old boys were infected with the virus before returning to the island. Henry also noted that of the 10 cases on the island, six

had been cluster-distributed and four travel-related. "The 28 confirmed cases in the Netherlands Antilles are already in recovery, so the situation of the spread of the H1N1 virus is fairly contained. While it has been realised in the Netherlands Antilles that the extent of the virus is not severe, preventive measures are being stepped up to deter mutation of the virus that could result in a worse variation, Gerstenbluth said.

In addition, Sector Health Care Affairs (SHCA) Director Jorien Wuite noted that as a possible peak period was nearing with persons returning from travel abroad during the holiday and youngsters returning to school, PHD was taking preparatory measures for a possible influx of the virus. A cross section of health care providers met Monday afternoon to evaluate areas of the current awareness campaign that were in need of strengthening or adjusting. Noting that deploying resources in the past weeks and weeks to come had been challenging in terms of staff,

funds, logistics, etc., these areas were discussed.

In terms of strengthening existing protocols in the coming weeks, logistics will be analysed, ensuring that tests and samples are taken effectively and transported adequately via Curaçao to Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Alternatives will also be explored for obtaining results more swiftly.

Communication will be intensified in coming days, Wuite said. The Government Information Service sought a more intensified communication campaign that was approved by the Executive Council two weeks ago. This has made more funds available to update the awareness campaign.

Keen attention will also be placed on returning travellers, sensitising the public once again on the measures they should take, such as observing possible symptoms of the virus and remaining isolated if possibly infected. Wuite noted that Princess Juliana International Airport had submitted a report on its updated preventive measures □

Special Month of July!

Appetizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Soup • Onion Soup • Conch Fritters • Escargot • Salad
Entrée	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it. • Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine. • Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin • Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast
Dessert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chocolate or Banana Cake • Ice Cream • Coffee / Tea

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With Professors from the Netherlands

Caribbean Academy of Business organized IT Workshop



Shown on photo: Mr. Arthur Ras (Protec), Mr. Fred de Jong (Caribbean Academy of Business), Mr. Sven Huffnagel (Protec), Ms. Sjamella Violenes, Ms. Machteld van Agtmaal, Mr. Reint Rossien, Ms. Frank Bonset (Lecturer Caribbean Academy of Business), Mr. Hans van der Moot (BSL), Mr. Hans Timpner (TOTT), Bottom: Prof Coos van Tuinen Ph.D. (Markus Verbeek Business Academy), Ms. Indrah Figueroa, Ms. Petra Beiben, Ms. Mirlanda Richardson (CATC).



Shown on the photo from left to right: Mr. Kennrick Williams, Mr. Earney Panneflekk, Ms. Micheline Tromp, Mr. Edson Jacobs, Ms. Shamilla Williams and Prof. Bob Smit MBA. Mr. Fred de Jong was not present at time of the photo shoot.

ORANJESTAD - - Executives and Professionals from AZV, BSL Laundry, Cachet Events, CATC, CompuLearn, Mon Plaisir Vastgoed, Protec, Talk of the town, – amongst others – attended a workshop and/or Master Classes with Professor Coos van Tuinen Ph.D. and Prof. Bob Smit MBA from the Netherlands.

Caribbean Academy of Business organized an Organizational Development & Change Workshop on July 9th, 2009 for companies on Aruba provided by Prof Coos van Tuinen Ph.D. In this workshop the students and Professor Van Tuinen discussed and practiced Organizational Development and Change in their organizations. With regard to change one studies how change processes develop, what kind of interventions work, what kind of interventions match certain changes, what kind of contexts are relevant and what competencies and attitudes of change agents are desired. The so called theory of colors by Prof. Dr. Léon de Caluwé (an oversight of change thoughts) is very popular. Gaming is a set of interventions which are aimed to give participants learning experiences. They are executed in a group setting and in a powerful simulated learning environment. Thinking and doing are tightly coupled and the learning experiences are tuned towards the daily practices. In the research on management consultancy: roles, interventions and effects of the work of management consultants are studied and implications for practitioners are described.

From July 13th till July 17th, 2009 Caribbean Academy of Business organized the last two (2) Master classes for the Master of Information Management Students Group 2007-2009. The subjects were Business and IT Alignment & Capita Selecta and IT & Project Management. The Master Classes have been provided by Prof. Bob Smit MBA from Markus Verbeek Business Academy. In these Master Classes the students have been discussing how Business Strategy and Business Operations can be aligned with IT Strategy and IT Operations and about how Project Management should be organized in IT Projects.

CAoB has NVAO accredited part-time studies Bachelor and Master Degree Business Administration with several Management Specializations available and workshops and seminars for Organizational Development and Management Development. For Bachelor and Master Studies the partners are “Hogeschool Midden Nederland” en “Markus Verbeek Business Academy”. Students are studying in the evening and weekends and are working as professionals or executives in the day-time. CAoB took the initiative to provide the studies, workshops and seminars, because according to local employers, the local companies need better educated business professionals and executives.

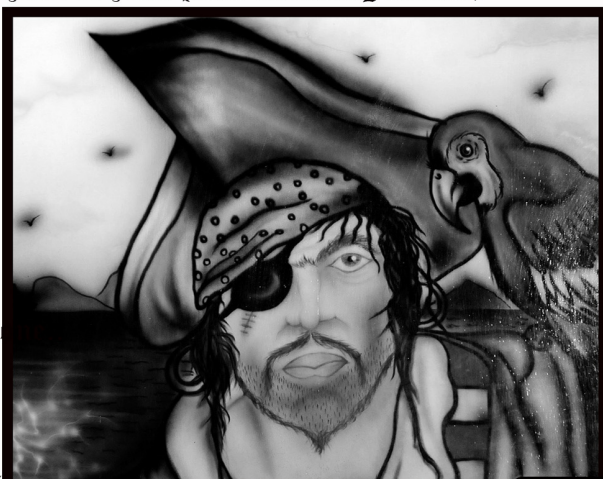
For more information call Mr. Fred de Jong at +297 5880315 ☐

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Aruba visitors as well as local residents will have the opportunity tonight to experience the true meaning of Latin dancing. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the ins and outs of Salsa and Merengue dancing. In no time you will advance yourself to the dance floor. Or if you prefer, you can watch your friends' dance moves from the bar. Fun guaranteed!

"Bugaloe means fun, friend



PALM BEACH - Tonight everyone with a feeling for rhythm or anyone interested in Salsa and Merengue music can dance the night away at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. A new edition of Bugaloe's Salsa Night will take place with a free Salsa & Merengue workshop by ArubaSalsa with the PM Band live in concert!

With motto 'Everybody can dance!' Bugaloe Beach Bar and ArubaSalsa dance school are offering this workshop



and happiness! With this workshop everybody can now experience the true joy of Latin-American dancing," Bugaloe's manager Myrthe Veltman says. The free workshop will be from 7:30pm

till 8:30pm.

The swinging PM band will perform live from 7:00pm till 11:00pm. It promises to be another crazy 'must-go' night at Bugaloe. No entrance fee! ☐



Leaders set the pace at The Westin Resort, Aruba



PALM BEACH - Last week, the managers and supervisors of The Westin Resort, Aruba gathered in the Buena Vista Suite on the 17th floor of the resort for a celebration of acknowledgement of the top leaders of the property during the second quarter. With breathtaking views of Palm Beach, everyone enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while nominated supervisors and managers were each applauded for exemplifying Westin Hotels & Resorts' philosophy to "redefine efficient service with an effortless style and gracious attitude that ensures a truly unforgettable experience," and leading their employees and respective departments to do the same.



The winner for Supervisor of the Second Quarter was Manuel Redondo from Housekeeping. He was acknowledged for his personal way of dealing with his fellow associates and smooth interaction with other departments within the resort. The winner for Manager of the Second Quarter was Rosa Tromp from Accounting. Her exemplary leadership skills and her ability to navigate the delicate relationships and needs of the resort's vendors make her an integral and valuable part of her department. Congratulations to the winners and all the nominees! □



In honor of the resort's 50th anniversary



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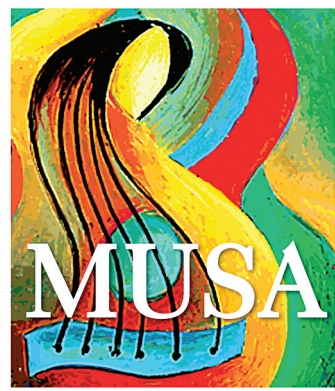
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"Musa Art House Theater" presents "Vera Drake"



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ORANJESTAD - Musa Art House Theater has the honor of inviting you to a special film cycle on Art House films. These films have received international acclaim and give us a glimpse of the new global cinema.

"Vera Drake" by: Mike Leigh, Thursday 23rd July 2009 at 8.00pm.

Director: Mike Leigh

Cast: Imelda Staunton, Richard Graham, Eddie Marsan, Anna Keaveney

Running Time: 125 minutes

Awards: Nominated for 3 Oscars, Another 33 wins & 28 nominations

Subtitle: English

"Vera Drake" Imelda Staunton delivers a career-best performance in Brit director Mike Leigh's Vera Drake, an engrossing drama about a down-to-earth woman performing backstreet abortions in 50s London.

After a hesitant opening during which the film's tone is established (working classes=good; middle classes=bad), the film becomes a subtle examination of a simple woman caught up in a complex world. Anyone unmoved by Staunton's performance really should check their pulse: they may well be dead.

It's difficult to know what Vera Drake (Staunton) dispenses more of: goodwill or cups of tea. Adored by her husband Stan (the ever-dependable Phil Davis) and children Sid (Daniel Mays) and Ethel (Alex Kelly), she manages to be both the cornerstone of her family and pillar of the community (you try it!). She also performs illegal abortions for "girls who are in trouble", a service she does for free and without her family's knowledge. When one of the abortions goes wrong, however, Vera's secret life comes to the attention of the police.....

Contribution is strongly suggested in order to continue with our film club presentation. (Afl 10,-)

N.B.: Remember that it's possible to enjoy a light snack before the film at the newly reopened

"Musa Café".

This night will also be a good opportunity to view the fantastic exhibit by Gustave Nouel, Danilo Geerman, Belinda De Veer, Adolf Valbuena, Mo Mohammed, Jean Girigori, Noff El Hadi and other works by local and regional artist exhibited.

For more information please call 5887837



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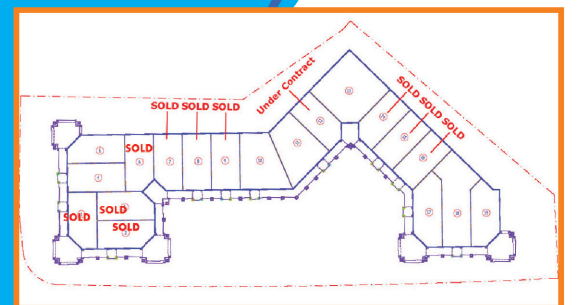
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WAYACA – Tuesday, Aruba returned home as the Latin American champion winning the Baseball Little League Championship Senior Division. Minister Ramon Lee, together

with fans, family and friends, received the team at the airport and congratulated them for their achievement. Congratulations to the Little League Aruba organization and to the champions. □



Restaurant

save money
4 course menu
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Located in the charming tropical enverions of the Perle d'Or resort, the Pam Pam restaurant offers a peek at Aruba's cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba's prime resorts. Firts-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced.

Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-couses, **all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23** no service charge

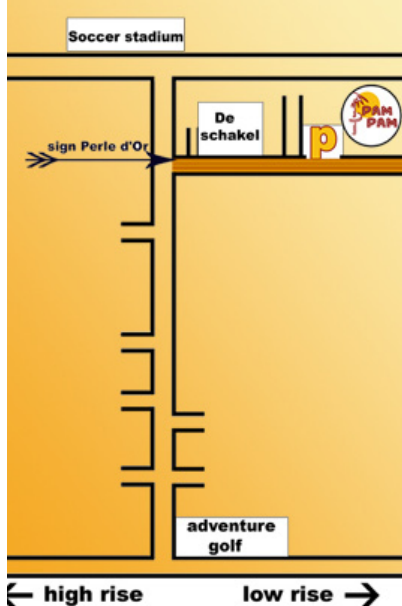
Pam Pam 's house specialty is a unique method of preperation, wich presently at Aruba is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "gourmet meal. **Priced \$ 20 and \$ 27**

A grill and a collection of fresh ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providin a unique and personal taste treat.

It is suggested that reservation for this singular dining experience be made before 3 p.m

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Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

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PALM BEACH - Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segaffredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling. They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept "Pelpinda's" is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their "Pijpjesavond" where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.** For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! For more information please call us at 745-4706.

At Occidental Grand

Kathleen and Kevin wed at sunset



PALM BEACH –On July 3, 2009, Kathleen Donnelly & Kevin Campbell exchanged vows and rings at sunset. The lovebirds went to high school together but never met, fate brought these to together. They were at a club and exchanged phone numbers. Kevin called her and left his number with her cousin but somehow the phone number was lost. Kathleen thought of Kevin all the time and wished they would run into each other again.

After three years at the same bar they recognized each other and Kathleen asked him if he remembered her. Kevin replied “yeah! You never called me!,” after she explained what happened with her cousin they exchanged phone numbers again but this time Kevin told her she had to call him this time”. Since then they have been inseparable! Kevin and Kathleen were happy to see the fate worked in mysterious ways and brought them together. “It worked out



for the best that way though, since we we’re both busy with school and building our careers at that time”, replied Kathleen. After 4 ½ years together they vowed their love at Occidental Grand Aruba with 42 loved

Kimberly Dammerman and staff took care of all the special details to make this an unforgettable evening. The reception followed on the beach with the first dance, cake cutting, parent dances and a bountiful buffet. The



ones who witnessed the union of marriage. As Kathleen walked down the aisle mother nature was kind to let only a few minutes of blessed rain fall upon her arrival at the alter. The wedding ceremony continued once the rain stopped. Bella Aruba Photography was there to capture every moment as the wedding continued and the sunset colored the sky with stunning hues of gold, orange and lilacs. The wedding coordinator,

speeches and a champagne toast took place just in time before Mother Nature let down a torrential rainfall with lightning and thunder which hit the main power surge which put the island in darkness . The newlyweds and the guests continued to enjoy the evening in a separate room that was lit with emergency lights. The Occidental Grand staff and Aruba Today wishes you the best in life with lots of light and a happy honeymoon!!!☐



Life's Pauses - Peri, Andro and Meno

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Medically, menopause is defined as: when you have not had a menstruation in a year. In fact, Menopause is really the end of a long, slow process called perimenopause, marked by changes in a woman's body. Menopause is a normal part of a woman's life, just like puberty. A woman's ovaries in her mid-30 begin to change how much estrogen and progesterone they produce. These two female hormones are both important for normal menstrual cycles and successful pregnancy.

In our clinic, when I inform women between 35 and 50 years old that the symptoms they are feeling, which seem to be Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS) are actually "Pre" or Peri-menopause symptoms. Many women remark that since they are not over fifty, this cannot be! Although, the current average age of menopause is about 52. The age span is usually from 45 to 55. However, symptoms of the body's changes during perimenopause can begin in the late 30's and last up to thirteen years!

Statistics indicate that approximately one in a hundred women goes through menopause at age 40 or younger. Early menopause can occur as a result of surgery, for example, when a woman has a hysterectomy or uterine removal with ovarian removal. According to some experts, early menopause can also be caused by various factors, such as an autoimmune disorder related to poor nutrition or chronic

stress resulting in the production of anti-ovarian antibodies.

Menopausal symptoms include hot flashes, mood swings, heart palpitations, insomnia, anxiety, depression, weight gain, low or lost libido and inability to concentrate. Becoming less able to handle daily tasks for women, who are masters at juggling or multi-tasking, may come as a surprise and cause feelings of inadequacy or frustration. Although bewildered husbands, children and a society that thrives on youth seem to believe all menopausal women experience symptoms for years on end, research indicates that 15 percent of women are symptom-free at menopause. Medical researchers have documented that while some women simply stop menstruating and have no symptoms whatsoever, 85 percent will experience some degree of hot flashes. As a medical anthropologist, I can tell you some cultures, such as traditional Navahos, exhibited and reported few symptoms of menopause. Moreover, socioeconomic status was strongly correlated to menopausal women's experience of symptoms. Women in higher income brackets showed an elevated rate of symptoms. This study indicates that psychological factors, rather than physical ones, may strongly determine menopausal symptoms. Belief systems, feelings and attitude can go a long in affecting many health concerns.

Major factors influencing a woman's emotional

and physical passage through the change of life include: personal health and childbearing history, health of her female ancestors and living female relatives, past and present dietary habits, past and present tobacco and alcohol use, medications, exercise, life style, stress and self-esteem. Another very influential factor is the amount of circulating glucose and insulin in the blood stream.

Many women have been led to believe that there is a cure for menopause by using estrogen or other forms of hormone replacement therapy (HRT). New medical findings have proven that synthetic hormone replacement may do women more harm than good. Younger women using synthetic birth control pills, patches or injections are using a form of HRT. This can be a big factor affecting women of perimenopausal age. In our clinic, we try to get all women off synthetic, artificial hormone changing birth control. We recommend using safer methods to keep track of their fertility status together with natural family planning and hormone balancing. A simple to use at home "fertility scope" can be effective in keeping track of a perimenopausal woman's changing cycles. Herbs such as Dong Quai, Red Chestnut, Rhodiola, DG-Licorice and Kudzu have long been known for menopausal and perimenopausal support as well as B vitamins.

Since women's hormone levels vary greatly, natural alternatives work best when used under professional guidance.

Some women should not use estrogen. Some need DHEA or testosterone, a hormone found in men, as well. Hormone levels can fluctuate greatly during menopause and women may need test their hormone levels and adjust their hormone therapy throughout the change. Accurate, comprehensive tests are available from laboratories specializing in hormones using saliva or blood spot rather than a tube of blood.

Specialty hormone testing is not only for menopausal women, but should begin in "pre" or peri-menopause. And, let's talk about the men. Men's hormone levels also change with age. This is known as andropause. All men over 50 need to check not only prostate, but also hormone levels. Testosterone can diminish even in younger men and women. Testosterone is responsible for muscle strength, beautiful hair and a healthy libido.

Get The Point! Aging and menopause are natural, not diseases, so a "cure" is unnecessary. Only with factual information can we begin to manage normal changes in our bodies. Having symptoms? Acupuncture and Chinese herbs have been used for more than 5,000 years to help rejuvenate the body and treat menopausal symptoms. Acupuncture can help ease symptoms such as insomnia, night sweats, mood swings and stress. A diet designed for the individual, including dietary supplements and nature's herbs can make your transition easier. Counseling can bring a positive



change in attitude. With information and guidance, men and women can journey through these life's changes with healthy "pauses" for rebalancing and enjoyment. Call us for a guided journey.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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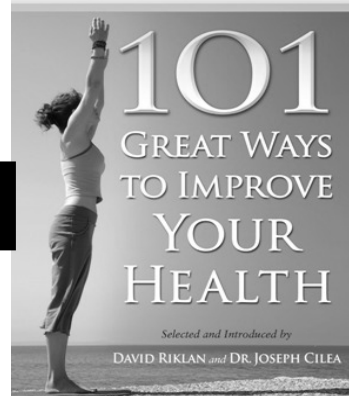
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

Wall St. climbs on Caterpillar; Apple shines late



FILE - In this April 25, 2008 file photo, pedestrians pass a sign for a branch office of discount broker TD Ameritrade in New York. TD Ameritrade Holding Corp. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 said its third-quarter net income fell nearly 17 percent as low interest rates continued to restrict its revenue, but the results exceeded Wall Street expectations.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

By Ellis Mnyandu

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Stocks rose on Tuesday as a solid profit from Caterpillar Inc (CAT.N) overcame some uneasiness about the company's outlook for the current quarter, but the gains were limited as some investors paused following the recent earnings-fueled run-up.

Trading was choppy, with the broader market initially charging higher after the open and the benchmark S&P 500 (.SPX) hitting a fresh 2009 intraday high as it extended its rebound from the 12-year closing low of early March.

A late push helped the Nasdaq eke out a small gain for its 10th straight winning session, the longest in 12 years.

With Apple Inc (AAPL.O), the maker of the iPhone, posting a stronger-than-expected profit after the bell and its stock rising 3.4 percent in late trade, Wednesday could be another banner

day for the Nasdaq.

Drugmaker Merck & Co (MRK.N), a Dow component, was among bellwethers with encouraging profit reports on Tuesday. But that profit optimism collided with a dose of reality as heavy equipment maker Caterpillar, another Dow component, warned the current quarter could be tough.

In addition, U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said in testimony before a congressional panel that mounting joblessness, slumping home values and tight credit were likely to curb consumer spending -- a major driver of U.S. economic growth and corporate profits.

"People can get a bit euphoric with a couple of positive economic numbers and earnings ... but you're going to have to see how this pans out over the long term," said Stephen Carl, principal and head of U.S. equity trading at The Williams Capital Group in New York.

"I think you do a little profit-taking now, go through the summer and see how the rest of second-quarter earnings come out, and then kind of ascertain what's going on after that."

The Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) gained 67.79 points, or 0.77 percent, to 8,915.94. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) rose 3.45 points, or 0.36 percent, to 954.58. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) added 6.91 points, or 0.36 percent, to 1,916.20 -- a closing high for the year.

FROM MARCH LOW, S&P JUMPS 41 PCT

The S&P 500 is now up 41 percent from the 12-year closing low of March 9.

Shares of Caterpillar, up 7.8 percent at \$39.46, provided the Dow's top boost, but finished below the day's high after the company said it expected the third quarter to be the year's weakest and "extremely challenging."

Merck said second-quarter earnings fell, hurt by lower sales of its cholesterol drugs, but income from partnerships and a rebound in sales of asthma drug Singulair helped the drugmaker beat profit forecasts. The stock, up 6.1 percent at \$29.65, ranked as the Dow's second-biggest advancer. The pharmaceuticals index (.DRG) was up 1.6 percent.

But shares of United Technologies Corp (UTX.N), a diversified manufacturer, fell 1.8 percent to \$53.97 after it posted a 23 percent drop in profit and lowered its 2009 outlook. □

Ford to sell improved EcoBoost engine

By KIMBERLY S.

JOHNSON,

AP Auto Writer

DEARBORN, Mich. – Ford Motor Co. said Tuesday that it will offer a four-cylinder EcoBoost engine for some of its vehicles starting next year, an effort to provide greater fuel economy to consumers without compromising on horsepower.

At a showcase of the company's 2010 model lineup, Barb Samardzich, Ford's vice president for global powertrain engineering, said the I-4 EcoBoost two-liter, four-cylinder engine will make a vehicle perform like one carrying a six-cylinder engine.

Ford executives did not say which vehicles will carry the I-4 EcoBoost. Ford developed the EcoBoost engines as way to achieve 20 percent better fuel economy, and currently offers a six-cylinder version in some cars — such as the Ford Flex — which allows for eight-cylinder performance. A vehicle with an EcoBoost engine costs a few thousand dollars more than the traditional engine vehicle, with prices varying based on the model.

The company is targeting having the improved engines in 90 percent of its product lineup by 2013.

"Today we see it as a premium engine," said Derrick Kuzak, Ford's vice president for global product development, regarding availability of EcoBoost. "As we expand it will be the volume engine."

Company CEO Alan Mulally said that Ford's "transformation" plan, which includes bringing the new engine to market, among other manufacturing and product improvements, is fully financed. He said Ford has sufficient liquidity to bring other new vehicles to market in a challenging auto sales climate.

"We're following our plan exactly," he said.

Ford is scheduled to report second-quarter results Thursday. □

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Bernanke says Fed can take on supercop role

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke ran into skepticism Tuesday from lawmakers wary of expanding the Fed's duties to police big financial companies. They argued that the Fed failed to spot problems that led to the financial crisis in the first place.

"The Fed has made some big mistakes," said Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee.

An Obama administration proposal to make the Fed the supercop of globally interconnected financial companies would be "just inviting a false sense of security that inevitably will be shattered at the expense of the taxpayer," Bachus warned.

Bernanke countered that the administration's proposal would be a "modest reorientation" of the Fed's powers, not a great expansion of them.

The Fed boss sought to assure investors and Congress that the central bank will be able to reel in its extraordinary economic stimulus and prevent a flare up of inflation once a recovery is firmly rooted. Still, any such steps will be far off in the future. The central bank's focus remains "fostering

economic recovery," he said. Bernanke also worked to beat back an administration proposal to create a new consumer protection regulator for financial services and strip some of those duties from the central bank. The House panel delayed a committee vote on that legislation until September.

Consumer groups and lawmakers have blamed the Fed for failing to crack down early on dubious mortgages practices that fed the housing boom and figured into its collapse. Later this week, the Fed will issue a proposal to boost disclosures on mortgages and home equity lines of credit. It also will include new rules governing the compensation of mortgage originators.

Bernanke also argued against congressional proposals to let the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, audit the central bank. He feared that audits that delve into the Fed's interest-rate decisions could compromise its independence in setting interest-rate policies.

"A perceived loss of monetary policy independence could raise fears about future inflation," he warned.

Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, a frequent Fed critic, rejected

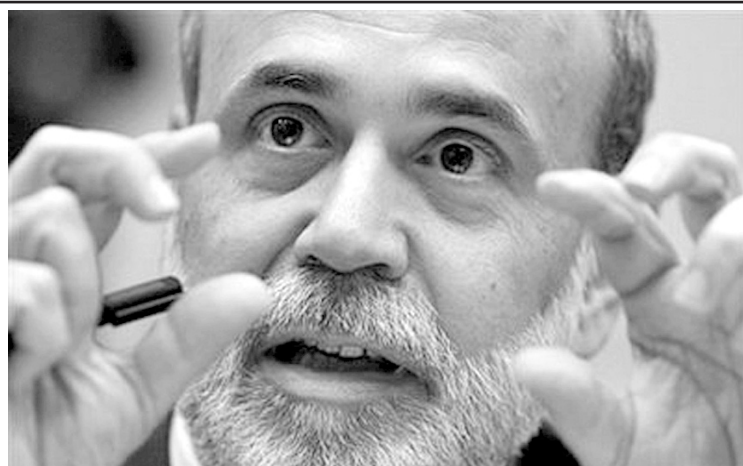
that argument and said the Fed already makes political calculations.

"Just the fact that (the Fed) can issue a lot of loans and special privileges to banks and corporations," Paul said. "That's political."

Rep. Bill Posey, R-Fla., who wants the Fed to be more open, argued that some people rightly say "you can find out more about the operations of the CIA, than the Fed. The public has the right to know." Bernanke's term expires early next year, and President Barack Obama will have to decide whether to reappoint him. The Fed chief's innovative policies have been credited with pulling the economy from the edge of the abyss last year.

But those actions also have touched off criticism about putting taxpayers at risk and whether the government should be cleaning up Wall Street messes.

Bernanke again pledged to keep its key bank lending



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke delivers a report on the country's economic and financial health before the House Financial Services Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

rate at a record low near zero for an "extended period." Economists predict rates will stay at record lows through the rest of this year.

Laying out a plan now to unwind the Fed's stimulus could give Bernanke more leeway to hold rates at record lows to brace the economy. It could ease investors' fears that the Fed's aggressive steps to end the longest recession since World War II could spur inflation later on.

"It is important to assure the public and the markets that the extraordinary policy measures we have taken in response to the financial crisis and the recession can be withdrawn in

a smooth and timely manner as needed, thereby avoiding the risk that policy stimulus could lead to a future rise in inflation," Bernanke said. "We are confident that we have the necessary tools to implement that strategy when appropriate."

But House committee chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., said it is important that the Fed not take those actions "prematurely" and snuff out a recovery.

Nigel Gault, economist at IHS Global Insight, said Bernanke wanted to send Congress a clear message: "Our monetary exit strategy is ready. Don't try to interfere with it." □

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Laughing All the Way to the Bank at the “Funny People” Premiere

Jenny Peters

Los Angeles – Million-dollar men were everywhere on the red carpet in Hollywood on Monday, July 20, at the

Arclight Cinemas as the “Funny People” gang and their best pals celebrated the premiere of their new comedy.

Ryan O’Neal opens up about Fawcett’s final hours



FILE - In this March 5, 1989 file photo, actors Ryan O’Neal, left, and Farrah Fawcett are shown at the premiere of the film, ‘Chances Are,’ in New York.

(AP Photo/Ray Stubblebine, file)

NEW YORK – Ryan O’Neal says even as Farrah Fawcett

lay dying, she clung to life. O’Neal tells NBC’s “Today” show that doctors said Fawcett had a couple of hours left, but she held on for a couple of days. O’Neal says Fawcett “wouldn’t pass,” and “it was awful.”

He says Fawcett’s eyes were open for the last three weeks of her life. He thinks she was “holding on,” since she had so much left to do.

Finally, he says, Fawcett closed her eyes and she was gone.

She died last month after a long battle with anal cancer. O’Neal says he writes to Fawcett in his journal, fulfilling a promise he made to his longtime love. He said he’d “see her every day” after her death. □



FWD125 Judd Apatow, left, and Adam Sandler at the Film premiere of “Funny People” in Los Angeles, Calif. on Monday, July 20, 2009.

(Fashion Wire Daily/Maria Ramirez)

Starting with the flick’s star, Adam Sandler, the highest-paid comedian in the world, who routinely makes \$25 million per movie, adding in his co-star Seth Rogen, whose pockets are overflowing with revenues from both acting and screenwriting, and throw in writer-director-producer Judd Apatow, whose hits include “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” and “Knocked Up,” and right there you have some the wealthiest guys working in Hollywood today.

Plus, there was Eric Bana, who

also stars in the comedy; he’s been raking it in as a leading man ever since he had his own TV comedy show in Australia, but admits that most American audiences don’t think of him as one of the “Funny People.” “While I was given great opportunities here, I wasn’t given comic opportunities,” he said at an earlier press conference. “I was given dramatic opportunities, so

there wasn’t that much I was able to do or wanted to do about that. I was pretty burnt out of comedy by the time I walked away from it. Even though no one here had seen any of it, it was irrelevant to me.

I was sort of done. But in this case, I think it’s definitely given me a taste of how much more fun it is on set to do a comedy.” □



“Britain’s Got Talent” contestant Susan Boyle returns to her home in Blackburn in West Lothian, Scotland, April 21, 2009.

REUTERS/David Moir

Susan Boyle: Fame is like ‘giant demolition ball’

NEW YORK – Susan Boyle says sudden fame hit her like a “giant demolition ball.”

The Scottish singing sensation tells NBC’s “Today” show, in an interview to air Wednesday, that adjusting to her overnight celebrity has been difficult.

Her first appearance on “Britain’s Got Talent” earlier this year had millions of YouTube hits. After placing second on the TV competition, the former church volunteer was hospitalized for exhaustion.

When asked if she felt overwhelmed by fame, Boyle says: “It’s a lot like a giant demolition ball.” Boyle says she had to wrap her head around the experience, but is glad for the opportunity to have a professional singing career.

Her interview on the NBC morning show was taped in London last week. □



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Review: 'The Ugly Truth' isn't pretty

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**,

AP Movie Critic

LOS ANGELES — At the end of the drearily formulaic romantic comedy "The Ugly Truth," as our two leads are finally admitting they've fallen for each other (no spoilers here, folks), Katherine Heigl's character asks Gerard Butler's why he's in love with her. Basically, he says he has no idea, only he phrases it with a word we can't reprint here.

Our sentiments exactly.

Obviously, in a battle-of-the-sexes comedy like this, the guy and the girl who hate each other at the beginning realize they're meant for each other by the end. But there's nothing even remotely likable, much less lovable, about Heigl's Abby Richter. She's a control freak who runs a tight ship at a Sacramento TV station, producing the morning news with unflappable efficiency and zero creativity.

She uses the same approach in her personal life, which is why she's hopelessly single, despite the fact that she looks like Katherine Heigl. Abby prints out talking points to go over with her blind dates, for example, and has a 10-item checklist of requirements for her ideal man.

Sure, it's meant as a joke, but come on. The idea of a woman being so rigid and frigid is purely archaic — which is why it's so disheartening that the script comes from three women: Karen McCullah Lutz

and Kirsten Smith, who had much greater success writing female characters in "Legally Blonde" and "The House Bunny," and first-timer Nicole Eastman.

Robert Luketic, who also did better work with "Legally Blonde," directs the slapstick antics in rather unspectacular fashion. A scene in which Abby has an accidental orgasm during a dinner with her bosses just falls flat.

That gag exemplifies one of the movie's chief problems. "The Ugly Truth" strains to distinguish itself from the other movies of the genre with graphically sexual and profane dialogue; rather than being offensive or amusing, the approach feels like a transparent and desperate attempt at being edgy.

Butler's brash Mike Chadway has made a bit of a name for himself in town as host of the cable-access show "The Ugly Truth," in which he spits out misogynistic dating advice and abuses callers. When Abby's station hires him to do his shtick in an effort to boost ratings, he and Abby immediately clash. Naturally, that will change.

Not only does he tell her what to say and do when she lands a date with Colin (Eric Winter), her too-good-to-be-true doctor neighbor, he also oversees her obligatory makeover, getting her out of conservative jeans and sweaters and into va-va-voomy dresses and heels.

So it's a retread of both "Pygmalion" and "Cyrano de Bergerac," but "The Ugly Truth" settles down some and becomes vaguely tolerable in these scenes when Mike and Abby banter about relationships.

Mike's rough charms work on everyone, including the station's bickering husband-and-wife anchor team, played by John Michael Higgins and Cheryl Hines in a waste of both actors' capabilities. Because deep down, of course, he's just as vulnerable and in need of love as everyone else.

Butler's regular-guyness makes the character more likable than he should be; but Heigl, for all her screen presence, looks great but seems



In this film publicity image released by Columbia Pictures, Gerard Butler, left, Katherine Heigl are shown in a scene from 'The Ugly Truth.'

(AP Photo/Columbia Pictures, Saeed Adyani)

stiff, as if she's uncomfortable with the wilder physical comedy of the character. It ain't pretty, but it's true.

"The Ugly Truth," a Columbia

Pictures release, is rated R for sexual content and language. Running time: 100 minutes. One and a half stars out of four. □

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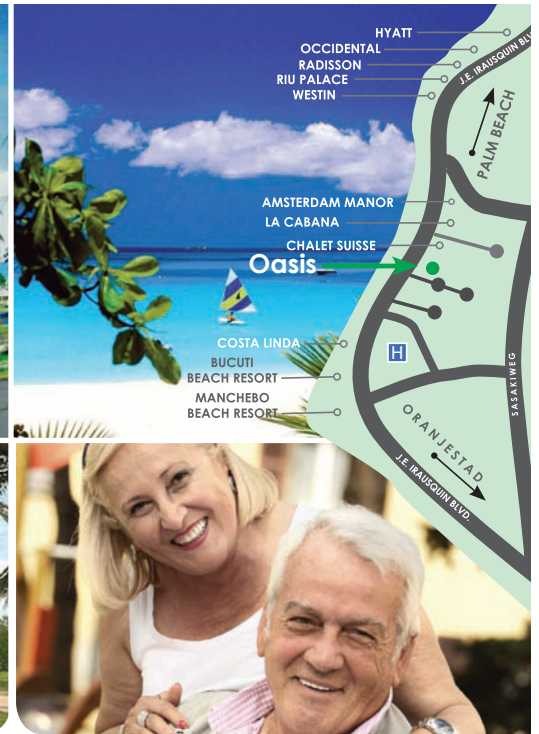
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In this Oct. 26, 2008 file photo, Republican vice presidential candidate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin blows a kiss to supporters after speaking at a rally at the Silver Spurs Arena, in Kissimmee, Fla. A day after abruptly announcing she would soon give up her job as governor, Palin on Saturday July 4, 2009 indicated on a social networking site that she would take on a larger, national role, citing a "higher calling" to unite the country along conservative lines.

Associated Press

AP NewsBreak: Palin implicated in ethics probe

RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An independent investigator has found evidence that Gov. Sarah Palin, the former Republican vice presidential candidate, may have violated ethics laws by trading on her position as she sought money for lawyer fees, in her latest legal distraction as she prepares to leave office this week.

The report obtained by The Associated Press says Palin was securing unwarranted benefits and receiving improper gifts through the Alaska Fund Trust, set up by supporters.

An investigator for the state Personnel Board says in his July 14 report that there is probable cause to believe Palin used or attempted to use her official position for personal gain because she authorized the creation of the trust as her legal defense fund.

The practical effect of the ruling on Palin will be more financial than anything else. The report recommends that Palin refuse to accept payment from the defense fund, and that the complaint be resolved without a formal hearing before the board. That allows her to resolve the issue without a formal ethics reprimand.

Palin posted an entry on Twitter in which she said the "matter is still pending," a statement echoed by her lawyer.

The fund aims to help Palin pay off debts stemming from multiple ethics complaints against her, most of which have been dismissed. Palin says she owes more than \$500,000 in legal fees, and she cited the mounting toll of the ethics probes as one of the reasons she is leaving office on Sunday.

Kristan Cole, the fund's trustee, said organizers have frozen the fund pending the personnel board's review. Politicians are routinely allowed to have such funds to pay off legal bills, but quirks in Alaska law can present ethics issues. The investigator, Thomas Daniel, sided with Palin in her frustration with having to defend herself against a barrage of ethics complaints. He suggested that Alaska lawmakers may need to create a law that reimburses public officials for legal expenses to defend complaints that end up being unfounded.

Palin's friends and supporters created the Alaska Fund Trust in April, limiting donations to \$150 per person. Organizers declined to say how much it has raised, and had hoped to raise about \$500,000. A Webathon last month brought in about \$130,000 in pledges.

In his report, Daniel said his interpretation of the ethics act is consistent with common sense.

Continued on Next Page

AP-GfK Poll: Great hopes for Obama fade to reality

NANCY BENAC,

TREVOR TOMPSON,

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The hope and optimism that washed over the U.S. in the opening months of Barack Obama's presidency are giving way to harsh realities.

An Associated Press-GfK Poll shows that a majority of Americans are back to thinking that the country is headed in the wrong direction after a fleeting period in which more thought it was on the right track.

Obama still has a solid 55 percent approval rating — better than Bill Clinton and about even with George W. Bush six months into their presidencies — but there are growing doubts about whether he can succeed at some of the biggest items on his to-do list. And there is a growing sense that he is trying to tackle too much too soon.

The number of people who think Obama can improve the economy is down a sobering 19 percentage points from the euphoric days just before his inauguration.

Continued on Page B3



Palestinian farmers from the northern West Bank village of Burin drag away cut olive trees close to the Jewish settlement of Yitzhar, Tuesday July 21, 2009. According to Burin's mayor, Jewish settlers cut more than 40 olive trees in the village. On Monday settlers, some of them on horseback, set fire to fields and olive trees and stoned Palestinian cars during a rampage in the West Bank in protest against the army's evacuation of an unauthorized settlement outpost in the area.

Associated Press

Israeli official: U.S. should honor past deals

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's deputy prime minister said Tuesday the Obama administration's call to freeze West Bank settlement construction undermines past agreements between the U.S. and Israel and damages American credibility.

The comments by Dan Meridor underscored the growing rift between Israel and the U.S. over construction in the settlements. Meridor, a respected veteran of Israeli politics, is considered a moderate voice in the new Israeli government.

Continued on Page B7



In this Feb. 24, 2009 file photo, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's personal attorney Thomas Van Flein, left, at a news conference in Anchorage, Alaska; and this Oct. 2, 2008 file photo shows Kristan Cole, a close friend of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and trustee for Alaska Fund Trust, in Wasilla, Alaska. An independent investigator has found evidence that Gov. Sarah Palin may have violated ethics laws by accepting private donations to pay her legal debts.

ETHIC PROBE

Continued from Front Page
An ordinary citizen facing

legal charges is not likely to be able to generate donations to a legal defense

Associated Press
fund, he wrote. "In contrast, Governor Palin is able to generate donations because

of the fact that she is a public official and a public figure. Were it not for the fact that she is governor and a national political figure, it is unlikely that many citizens would donate money to her legal defense fund."

The ethics complaint was filed by Eagle River resident Kim Chatman shortly after the fund was created, alleging Palin was misusing her official position and accepting improper gifts.

"It's an absolute shame that she would continue to keep the Alaska Fund Trust Web site up and running," Chatman told the AP.

At least 19 ethics complaints have been filed against Palin, most of them after she was named the running mate for Republican presidential candidate John McCain. Most of those have been dismissed, and Palin's office usually sends a news release with the

announcement.

The multiple ethics complaints include an investigation by state lawmakers over Palin's firing of her public safety commissioner.

John Coale, a Washington lawyer who helped set up the fund, called the probable cause finding "crazy," adding that if upheld, it would mean that no governor could ever defend themselves against frivolous ethics complaints. "If this complaint is true, there's no way to defend yourself" as governor, Coale said.

"Anybody can keep filing ethics complaints and drive someone out of office even if you're a nut."

Coale said that unlike other states, Alaska's governor has no legal counsel's office to defend the governor from allegations brought against the governor in her official capacity. □

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AP-GFK POLL

Continued from Front Page

The same for expectations about creating jobs. Also down significantly: the share of people who think he can reduce the deficit, remove troops from Iraq and improve respect for the U.S. around the world, all slipping 15 points. On overhauling health care, a signature issue for Obama, hopes for success are down a lesser 6 points.

Add it all up, and does it mean Obama has lost his luck? Has yes-we-can, his successful campaign slogan, morphed into maybe?

"I think it's just reality," said Sandy Smith, a 48-year-old public relations worker. "He's not Superman, right?"

Indeed, it's not unusual for approval ratings to slide once presidents actually get to work. They're pulled down by things going on in the real world, by people who don't agree with the ways they're addressing problems, by criticism from political opponents.

In Obama's case, the problems he's confronting domestically and internationally are legion, and his ability to blame them on his predecessor is fading. Challenges still abound in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unemployment, at 7.6 percent in January, hit 9.5 percent in June and is expected to keep rising well into next year. Almost 4 percent of homeowners with mortgages are in foreclosure, and an additional 8 percent are at least a month behind on payments — the highest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The president is deep into the debate over how to overhaul the U.S. health care system, and people are nervous about how their own

health insurance could be affected. Obama's critics are accusing him of conducting a risky "grand experiment" that will hurt the economy and could force millions to drop their current coverage.

It is all taking a toll on expectations. The number of people who think it is realistic to expect at least some noticeable improvement in the economy during Obama's first year in office dropped from 27 percent in January to 16 percent in the latest survey.

There's been slippage, as well, in how people view the president personally, although he is still well regarded. About two-thirds now think he understands the problems of ordinary Americans, down from 81 percent in January. Sixty-nine percent think he's a strong leader, off from 78 percent before the inauguration.

"He doesn't know enough about any of this," says Michelle Kelsey, a 37-year-old student, who gives Obama a three for leadership on a 10-point scale. But then again, Kelsey says, "Nobody could have done better."

"I just feel like people haven't given him enough time. It's going to take longer for the economy to come around."

It's not just Obama who is feeling the drag. Approval of Congress — already low — has gotten lower, slipping 6 percentage points to 32 percent.

Overall, the number of people who think the country is going in the wrong direction hit 54 percent in the latest AP-GfK poll, up from 46 percent in June.

That is not necessarily surprising. In years past, the public has tended to be more

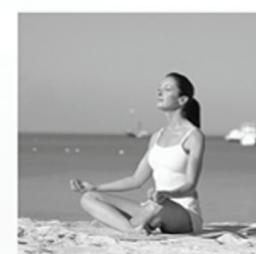
pessimistic than optimistic about the country's future. Recent exceptions have been short-lived, at the start of the Iraq war, after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, after the capture of Saddam Hussein in Iraq and late in the Clinton administration.

Perhaps most troubling for Obama may be where he is losing ground. His approval rating was down 9 points among Americans overall but 20 percent among independents. Similarly, the increase in those who think the country is headed in the wrong

direction came mostly from independents and Democrats. Dissatisfaction among independents grew disproportionately on Obama's handling of a range of issues, including the economy, taxes, unemployment, the environment and more. □

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Democrats divided on Obama's health care overhaul



Rep. Mike Ross, D-Ark., second from left, speaks to the media, as Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., and Henry Waxman, D-Calif., listen after a Blue Dog Democrats meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Associated Press

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama remained on the offensive Tuesday on the pace and shape of legislation reinventing health care in the U.S. against stiffening opposition from Republicans and growing wariness among rank-and-file congressional Democrats. With a self-imposed deadline for action in jeopardy, the

Democratic leadership juggled complaints from conservatives demanding additional cost savings, first-term lawmakers upset with proposed tax increases and objections from members of the rank-and-file opposed to allowing the government to sell insurance in competition with private industry.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi vowed weeks ago that the House would vote by the end of July

on legislation to meet two goals established by Obama months ago.

The president wants legislation to extend health coverage to the tens of millions who now lack it, at the same time it restrains the growth in the cost of health care far into the future.

The United States is the only major industrialized nation that lacks a comprehensive national health care plan. Most Americans rely on private health insurance partly funded by their employers, which they lose if they lose their job.

"No one wants to tell the speaker that she's moving too fast and they damn sure don't want to tell the president," Rep. Charles Rangel, a key Democratic committee chairman, told a fellow lawmaker as the two walked into a closed-door meeting. The remark was overheard by reporters.

The president also has vowed that the legislation will not swell the deficit, although a senior administration official told reporters Tuesday that the pledge does not apply to an estimated \$245 billion to increase fees for doctors serving elderly Medicare patients over the next decade. Peter Orszag, the White House budget director, said that was because the administration always assumed the money would be spent to avert a scheduled cut of 21 percent in

doctor's fees.

At the White House, Obama and moderate and conservative Democrats verbally agreed on "some type of hybrid of a Medicare advisory council," said Democratic Rep. Mike Ross. Obama last week urged lawmakers to adopt something along those lines, saying it would slow the growth in the health care program for seniors.

But increasingly, it appeared that the best Democrats could hope for this summer would be a vote in the full House by the end of the month, and some sort of agreement on a bipartisan plan in the Senate before lawmakers head home for their summer vacation.

Even that remained a difficult challenge, though.

At the White House, Obama clearly had Republicans in mind, not Democrats, when he demanded action.

"So I understand that some will try to delay action until the special interests can kill it while others will simply focus on scoring political points," the president said. "We've done that before. And we can choose to follow that playbook again, and then we'll never get over the goal line and will face an even greater crisis in the years to come."

Obama has spoken in public nearly every day for more than a week on the issue, some times more than once. At the same time Republicans have upped the political stakes.

On Monday, Michael Steele, the Republican chairman, likened Obama's proposals on health care to socialism, and said the chief executive wanted to conduct a "risky experiment" that will damage the nation's economy and force millions to lose the coverage they now have.

Last week, Republican Sen. Jim DeMint was quoted as telling fellow conservatives, "If we're able to stop Obama on this, it will be his Waterloo. It will break him," a reference to the site of French Emperor Napoleon's defeat in 1815.

Given the struggle, the polls show slippage for Obama, although he remains popular. Still, with details unsettled and Democrats in disagreement, the president is battling the impression if not the reality that his proposal is stalled.

He met at the White House during the day with moderate and conservative Democrats whose call for additional cost savings has slowed work in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The panel is the only one of three that has yet to approve its portion of the legislation.

Separately, nearly two dozen first-term lawmakers have called for changes in tax increases in the legislation that would apply to individuals making more than \$280,000 a year and couples over \$350,000.

In a measure of the complexity of the task, Orszag said conservative Democrats had reacted favorably to proposals to create an independent commission to recommend future increases in health care provider payments under Medicare.

It is one of only a few proposals in circulation that officials say has the ability to restrain the skyrocketing growth of health care costs. □

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Charges dropped against black Harvard scholar

MELISSA TRUJILLO

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP)—Prosecutors dropped a disorderly conduct charge Tuesday against prominent black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who was arrested at his home near Harvard University after a report of a break-in.

The city of Cambridge issued a statement saying the arrest “was regrettable and unfortunate,” and police and Gates agreed that dropping the charge was a just resolution.

“This incident should not be viewed as one that demeans the character and reputation of professor Gates or the character of the Cambridge Police Department,” the statement said.

Supporters say Gates — the director of Harvard’s W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research — was the victim of racial profiling.

One of them, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, was unsatisfied with the resolution.

“The charges have been dropped, but the stain remains. ... Humiliation remains,” Jackson said. “These incidents are so much of a national pattern on race.”

Gates declined to comment Tuesday, and his lawyer, fellow Harvard scholar Charles Ogletree, did not immediately return a request to comment on the charge being dropped. Officers responded to the home

Gates rents from Harvard after a woman reported seeing “two black males with backpacks on the porch,” one of whom was “wedging his shoulder into the door as if he was trying to force entry,” according to a police report.

Ogletree said the professor had returned from a trip overseas with a driver, found his front-door jammed and had to force it open. He was already inside, calling the company that manages the property, when police arrived.

Police said the 58-year-old Gates was arrested after he yelled at an officer, accused him of racial bias and refused to calm down after the officer demanded Gates show him identification to prove he lived in the home.

Ogletree said Gates showed his driver’s license and Harvard ID — both with his photos — and repeatedly asked for the name and badge number of the officer, who refused. He followed the officer as he left his house onto his front porch, where he was arrested.

Gates joined the Harvard faculty in 1991 and holds one of 20 prestigious “university professors” positions at the school.

He also was host of “African American Lives,” a PBS show about the family histories of prominent U.S. blacks. In 1997, he was named by Time magazine as one of the 25 most influential Americans. □



Cambridge, Mass., Police Department Spokesperson Kelly Downes, center, faces reporters as Sgt. James DeFrancesco, left, looks on during a news conference at police headquarters, in Cambridge, Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Associated Press

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Clinton declares the U.S. 'is back' in Asia



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, shakes hands with Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva at the government house in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, July 21, 2009. Clinton is on a three-day visit to Thailand.

Associated Press

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — On her second trip to Asia as U.S. secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton is carrying a no-nonsense message about American intentions.

"The United States is back," she declared Tuesday upon arrival in the Thai capital.

By that she means the administration of President Barack Obama thinks it's time to show Asian nations that the United States is not distracted by its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and intends to broaden and deepen its partnerships in this region.

Clinton was trumpeting that line Wednesday in an appearance with a prominent TV personality before flying to a seaside resort at Phuket for two days of international meetings to discuss North Korea, Myanmar and a range of other regional issues.

Clinton says she would, as previously announced, sign ASEAN's seminal Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, a commitment to peacefully resolve regional disputes that has already been signed by more than a dozen countries outside the 10-nation bloc.

The U.S. signing will be by the executive authority of Obama and does not require congressional ratification, said a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was

not authorized to discuss the move publicly.

The administration of President George W. Bush had declined to sign the document; Obama sees it as a symbolic underscoring of the U.S. commitment to Asia.

On her arrival in Bangkok on Tuesday, Clinton reiterated Obama administration concerns that North Korea, already a threat to the U.S. and its neighbors with its history of illicit sales of missiles and nuclear technology, is now developing ties to Myanmar's military dictatorship.

Clinton held out the possibility of offering North Korea a new set of incentives to return to negotiating a dismantling of its nuclear program if it shows a "willingness to take a different path." But she admitted there is little immediate chance of that.

A Clinton aide said the United States and its allies are looking for a commitment by North Korea that would irreversibly end its nuclear weapons program. The aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal U.S. government deliberations, said there is no sign that North Korea intends to make such a move, keeping the U.S. focus on enforcing expanded U.N. sanctions.

In her remarks about a possible Myanmar-North Korea connection, Clinton did not refer explicitly to a nuclear

link but made clear that the ties are disconcerting.

"We know there are also growing concerns about military cooperation between North Korea and Burma which we take very seriously," she said at a news conference in the Thai capital.

"It would be destabilizing for the region, it would pose a direct threat to Burma's neighbors," she said, adding that as a treaty ally of Thailand, the United States takes the matter seriously.

Later, a senior administration official said Washington is concerned about the possibility that North Korea could be cooperating with Myanmar on a nuclear weapons program, but he added that U.S. intelligence information on this is incomplete. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter.


The United States, in a joint effort with South Korea, Japan, China and Russia, is attempting to use U.N. sanctions as leverage to compel North Korea to return to the negotiating table over its nuclear program. A major element of the international concern about North Korea is the prospect of nuclear proliferation, which could lead to a nuclear arms race in Asia and beyond.

Clinton spoke to reporters after meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva at the outset of a three-day visit to Thailand.

Clinton sharply criticized the military rulers of Myanmar for human rights abuses, "particularly violent actions that are attributed to the Burmese military concerning the mistreatment and abuse of young girls."

She said an Obama administration policy review on Myanmar is on hold pending the outcome of the trial of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is accused of violating the terms of her house arrest.

The Noble Peace Prize laureate faces up to five years in prison if convicted, as expected. □



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PG-13	YEAR ONE	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:40	7:10 9:15 late show: 11:20
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PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:20	6:15 11:20 late show: 11:20
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ISRAEL - U.S.

Continued from Front Page

President Barack Obama has urged Israel to halt all settlement construction as a confidence-building move to restart stalled peace negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he would not build any new settlements, but that construction must be permitted inside existing settlements to accommodate what he calls "natural growth" in their populations. Nearly 500,000 Israelis now live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and claimed by the Palestinians as part of a future independent state.

Israeli officials and former White House official Eliot Abrams have cited a series of written and oral understandings reached with the Bush administration that appear to permit limited settlement construction.

Speaking to foreign reporters, Meridor, who is one of six deputy premiers under Netanyahu, said it was important for these understandings to be honored. Otherwise, it would raise questions about the legitimacy of future agreements, he said. "We never had an agreement with the previous administration. We had an

agreement with America," he added. "The agreement we had with the Americans is binding on us and them ... They should keep to the agreement."

Netanyahu, known for hard-line views toward the Palestinians, recently endorsed the U.S. goal of establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel as part of a peace deal, though shackled by conditions. However, the Palestinians, encouraged by the firm U.S. stance on settlements, have refused to resume talks until Netanyahu halts settlement construction.

"What is required from Israel is to freeze all settlement activity," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said in the West Bank Tuesday. "When Israel meets these demands, we will be ready to go to the final negotiations."

The EU issued a statement Tuesday calling on Israel to stop what it termed "provocative" actions in Jerusalem, like demolition of some Palestinian homes. These, "combined with the increase in settlement activity in east Jerusalem, further threaten the chances of peace," the statement said.

Jerusalem city hall has said that the destroyed homes were built without permits.

Meridor hoped the differences over restarting peace talks would soon be bridged.



A Jewish settler looks on as she stands next to ruins of a structure demolished by Israeli authorities earlier Monday, next to the West Bank settlement of Adei Ad, south of Nablus, Monday, July 20, 2009. Israel on Sunday rejected a U.S. demand to suspend a planned housing project in east Jerusalem, threatening to further complicate an unusually tense standoff with its strongest ally over settlement construction. Settlements built on captured lands claimed by the Palestinians have emerged as a major sticking point in relations between Israel and the Obama administration because of their potential to disrupt Mideast peacemaking.

Associated Press

"In the coming weeks, I think that we will see, I certainly hope so, the resumption of negotiations," he said. He noted that Palestinians conducted three years of negotiations with Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert, while settlements expanded. As he spoke, settlers rampaged in the West Bank for a second day, cutting down some 40 olive trees belonging to

Palestinian farmers in the village of Burin, said Mayor Ali Eid. The Israeli military said it received reports of the rampage, but by the time troops arrived, the settlers had

fled. Extremist settlers often vandalize Palestinian property to protest Israel's removal of small, unauthorized outposts in the West Bank — a tactic they call the "price tag." □

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28 finalists named in '7 Wonders of Nature' poll

ELIANE ENGELER

Associated Press Writer

GENEVA (AP) — The Grand Canyon, the Matterhorn and the Great Barrier Reef are competing with 25 other spectacular natural landmarks in the final phase of the global poll to choose the "New 7 Wonders of Nature."

The Amazon rainforest, the Dead Sea, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa and Ecuador's Galapagos islands are also among the finalists, the organization New 7 Wonders led by Swiss adventurer Bernard Weber said on Tuesday.

People can vote by Internet or phone.

The winners will be announced in 2011 and share in the glory already enjoyed by the seven man-made wonders chosen two years ago.

Over 1 billion people are expected to join in the voting, Weber said.

"This campaign should contribute to the appreciation — to the knowledge — of our environment and not just the one in our country but worldwide," he told The

Associated Press. "If we or our children want to save anything, we should first appreciate it."

The finalists also include Azerbaijan's Mud Volcanoes, Lebanon's Jeita Grotto, Ireland's Moher Cliffs and Germany's Black Forest.

A panel of experts chose the finalists among the 77 nominees that gained the most votes in an early round of polling. People had suggested 261 landmarks in countries all over the world.

The panel chaired by Federico Mayor, former chief of UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, picked the finalists depending on geographical balance, diversity and the importance to human life.

Weber said he was happy the nominees included places that lie in more than one country, such as the Dead Sea or the Amazon rainforest, which makes people work together across borders.

High voter participation has come from Asian countries, including Indonesia, India,



The Matterhorn mountain, one of the finalists, is seen on a screen, as Swiss Bernard Weber, founder and president of the "New 7 wonders" campaign, announces the 28 finalists of the New 7 Wonders of Nature global campaign in Zurich, Switzerland, Tuesday, July 21, 2009. The competition is similar to that for the seven Man-Made Wonders of the world chosen in 2007. The winner then were the Colosseum, Italy; the Great Wall of China; the Taj Mahal, India; Petra, Jordan; Christ the Redeemer Statue, Brazil; Machu Picchu, Peru; and the Pyramid at Chichen Itza, Mexico.

Associated Press

Bangladesh and Vietnam, as well as from Latin America, he said.

"U.S. voters' participation is always quite high," he added. Africa, where most people vote by mobile phones, has had the biggest increase in votes over the last few weeks, Weber said.

Weber declined to give any specific numbers of votes so far. But the organization plans to release details about voter

profiles later. Registration on the Web site aims to prevent people from voting twice.

Around 100 million people voted in the selection of the seven manmade wonders in 2007. The winners were the Colosseum, Italy; the Great Wall of China; the Taj Mahal, India; Petra, Jordan; Christ the Redeemer Statue, Brazil; Machu Picchu, Peru; and the Pyramid at Chichen Itza, Mexico.

Choosing world wonders has been a continuing fascination over the centuries. UNESCO keeps updating its list of World Heritage Sites, which now totals 890 places.

The New 7 Wonders campaign aims to promote cultural diversity by supporting, preserving and restoring monuments and natural sites. It relies on private donations and revenue from broadcasting rights. □

Australian engulfed in flames after being Tasered

By KRISTEN GELINEAU

Associated Press Writer

SYDNEY — A man whose relatives say had been sniffing gasoline burst into flames after a police officer Tasered him as he ran at officials carrying a container of fuel, police said Tuesday.

The man, identified by his family as 36-year-old Ronald Mitchell, was in critical condition at a Perth hospital in Western Australia state following Monday's incident in Warburton, an Aboriginal community 950 miles northeast of Perth.

Western Australia police said they were responding to a complaint at a house when Mitchell ran outside carrying a cigarette lighter and a large plastic bottle containing what they believe was fuel. When he refused to stop running toward them, one officer Tasered him, police said in a statement.

The man was immediately engulfed in flames. The officer threw him to the ground and smothered the blaze with his hands, the statement said. Mitchell was charged with assault to prevent arrest and possession of a sniffing substance.

An 18-year-old woman threw rocks at the

officer as he tried to help, and he was later treated for a cut on his head and burns to his hands, police said.

The woman was charged with two counts of assaulting an officer, police Sgt. Graham Clifford said. Two others at the house were charged with possessing a sniffing substance. Mitchell's sister, Morinda West, told The Australian newspaper that her brother had been sniffing gasoline and that when he ran out of the house he was carrying a lighter and an orange juice container full of gasoline.

Police spokeswoman Susan Usher said Mitchell appeared to have received third-degree burns to about ten percent of his body.

Western Australia Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan defended the officer's actions on Tuesday, calling Mitchell a known gasoline sniffer and violent offender.

"The police officers were concerned that they were going to be burnt so they deployed a Taser," O'Callaghan told reporters in Perth. "The only other choice they would have had is to use a police-issue firearm and the circumstances would almost certainly have been far more grave." □

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Chavez objects to Colombia's base deal with U.S.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is objecting to Colombia's decision to let the United States increase its military presence in the neighboring country.

Chavez said Tuesday that Colombia's plan to accommodate more U.S. troops at its air and naval bases is "a threat against us."

"They are surrounding Venezuela with military bases," he said in a televised speech. He said he ordered "an entire review of our relations with Colombia" as a result.

A fifth round of U.S.-Colombia negotiations on an accord are set for next week. Most details of the anticipated pact have not been divulged, but Colombian officials say the number of U.S. service personnel and civilian military contractors will not exceed the 1,400 mandated by the U.S. Congress. Chavez has often accused the United States of plotting to overthrow or undermine him. His relations with Washington remain strained even though he and President Barack Obama's administration recently restored their ambassadors, seeking more dialogue. Chavez expelled the U.S. envoy last year, and Washington responded in kind.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said Monday that his government is aiming to reach an agreement for what defense officials say would be the use of three airfields and two navy bases by U.S. forces.

"The accord is to strengthen Colombian military bases, not to open U.S. bases," Uribe said in a speech, saying the agreement is necessary to reinforce security in Colombia.

More than \$4 billion in U.S. aid since 2000 has helped Colombia fight leftist rebels, who rely in part on drug proceeds.

Chavez dismissed Colombian statements that the U.S. troops are intended to fight drug trafficking.

"God save us ... from a war. God save us, but that doesn't depend on us," Chavez said, adding that his message to Obama as well as his opponents in Venezuela and Colombia is: "Don't make a mistake with us because the shot will backfire."

The leftist leader has had diplomatic disputes with Uribe's U.S.-allied government in the past, but the two have repeatedly smoothed over their conflicts.

Colombian Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez said the bases would be used strictly for combating Colombia's rebel groups and drug smugglers.

"Some third countries have expressed some concern regarding the agreement. We have always said that this agreement applies exclusively to Colombia," Bermudez said. "We are going to end drug trafficking and terrorism. That way, we Colombians are going to be free, but we are also going to guarantee security for the entire region." □



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez speaks during a televised speech at the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Sunday, June 28, 2009. Chavez said he put his military on alert Sunday after a coup in Honduras and vowed to do whatever is necessary to restore President Manuel Zelaya to power.

Associated Press



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Singer Marc Anthony and his wife actress singer Jennifer Lopez hold up Miami Dolphins jerseys during a news conference Tuesday, July 21, 2009, announcing Anthony's minority ownership in the team in New York.

Associated Press

Marc Anthony becomes a Dolphins minority owner

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer Marc Anthony is the latest music star to join forces with the Miami Dolphins, with the team announcing Tuesday that he will become a minority owner.

Singer Gloria Estefan and her husband, producer Emilio Estefan, also bought a small stake in the club last month. New Dolphins owner Stephen Ross also began a partnership in May with Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville enterprise, which includes Land Shark Lager. Buffett has yet to accept Ross' invitation to become a minority owner, but the Dolphins' stadium has been renamed Land Shark Stadium for this season. Buffett has also written a song for the team.

Anthony will also perform the national anthem on ESPN's "Monday Night Football" on Oct. 12 against the New York Jets as part of the NFL's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Anthony is married to singer-actress Jennifer Lopez. He has sold more than 10 million albums and is also an actor. □



Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez, right, celebrates his two-run home run with teammates Russell Martin (55) and Andre Ethier (16) at home plate during the second inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Monday, July 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Ramirez passes Mantle in Dodgers' 7-5 victory

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Manny Ramirez hit his 537th home run to pass Mickey Mantle into 15th place on the all-time list, and Jason Schmidt won his first major league start in more than two years as Los Angeles beat Cincinnati 7-5 in the National League on Monday.

Ramirez, who tied Mantle on July 10, homered

off Micah Owings (6-10) in the second inning to give Los Angeles a 6-3 lead. The Dodger Stadium crowd of 48,110 chanted his first name in unison, hoping for a curtain call that never came.

Continued on Page B12

Astarloza wins 16th stage of Tour

JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press Writer
BOURG-SAINT-MAURICE, France (AP) — Alberto Contador fought to retain the Tour de France lead and Lance Armstrong clung to second in Tuesday's 16th stage, which was won by Spanish rider Mikel Astarloza.

Contador and Armstrong finished in a group of race leaders behind Astarloza in the 99-mile ride through the Alps from the Swiss town of Martigny to Bourg-Saint-Maurice.

Continued on Page B13



Stage winner Mikel Astarloza of Spain reacts on the podium after the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 98.8 miles with start in Martigny, Switzerland and finish in Bourg-Saint-Maurice, Alps region, France, Tuesday July 21, 2009.

Associated Press



Mike Krzyzewski speaks during a news conference announcing he will lead USA Basketball's 2010-12 men's team coaching staff at the Wynn Las Vegas, Tuesday, July 21, 2009. This is coach Krzyzewski's second run as head coach after winning gold in Beijing.

Associated Press

Krzyzewski will coach U.S. in 2012 Games

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Mike Krzyzewski could have left international basketball on top, having returned the United States to its longtime position as the world's best. That's not what coaches like Krzyzewski do.

"It was very easy to walk away, but I just don't think people who are accustomed to competing or high achievers walk away," USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said. "You just keep competing."

So that's what Krzyzewski plans, right on through the 2012 Olympics.

USA Basketball announced Tuesday that Krzyzewski will return to lead the United States in next summer's world championships and when it defends its gold medal in London. The Americans won the championship last year in Beijing and will bring the leadership of that team back for another run. Krzyzewski's entire staff of assistants also will return — New York's Mike D'Antoni, Portland's Nate McMillan and Jim Boeheim of Syracuse. □

Watson would need invite to U.S. PGA, if he wants it

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Even though he came within an 8-foot putt of winning the British Open, Tom Watson didn't sound terribly interested on Tuesday in playing the U.S. PGA Championship next month in Minnesota.

First, though, he would need an invitation to the only major he never won.

PGA of America spokesman Julius Mason confirmed that the 59-year-old Watson was not exempt for the U.S. PGA Championship, which will be held from Aug. 13-16 at Hazeltine.

Speculation arose during Watson's press conference at Sunningdale for the Senior British Open that his runner-up finish at Turnberry was enough to get into the U.S. PGA Championship.

"What week is that?" Watson said. "I've got a full schedule coming up."

Told that it would be nice to see him win the U.S. PGA and complete the career Grand Slam, Watson chuckled and said, "Right now I wouldn't hold my breath that I'm going to be playing the PGA."

Watson is No. 124 in the PGA points standings, which take the top 70. He moved up to No. 105 in the world ranking, and the U.S. PGA Championship tries to get as many players as possible from the top 100.

Mason said Watson would be considered for an invitation.

"He's being reviewed, along with other players," Mason said, adding that the PGA would not decide on the rest of its exemptions until Aug. 3.

It already has awarded spots to 17-year-old Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and Tom Lehman, a former Ryder Cup captain and major champion who grew up in Minnesota.

Watson was on the verge of becoming the oldest major champion ever when he had a one-shot lead playing the final hole at Turnberry. His 8-iron bounced over the green, he missed an 8-foot par putt, then wound up losing by six shots to Stewart Cink in a four-hole playoff.

Watson has won more major championships on

links courses than anyone — five British Opens and three Senior British Opens — which enabled him to beat some players younger than his own children.

Hazeltine is 7,674 yards and plays as a par 72, with three of the par 5s longer than 600 yards.

"There are certain courses that you can play and that you can compete on and do well," Watson said. "Not all of them, but there are certain ones. And Turnberry was one for me."

The U.S. PGA Championship is the only major Watson never won. The closest he came was in 1978 at Oakmont, when he shot 73 in the last round and lost in a playoff won by John Mahaffey.

He has not played in the U.S. PGA since 2003 at Oak Hill, where he shot 75-75 and missed the cut. □



Tom Watson of the US plays out of a bunker the first hole during the final round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course, Scotland, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

Associated Press

NFL star accused of sex assault in lawsuit

SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nevada (AP) — A woman has filed a lawsuit accusing Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger of raping her last summer in his penthouse room at a casino in Lake Tahoe during a celebrity golf tournament.

Roethlisberger's lawyer adamantly denied the allegations on Tuesday, and was quick to point out that the woman never went to the authorities.

"Ben has never sexually assaulted anyone. The timing of the lawsuit and the absence of a criminal complaint and a criminal investigation are the most compelling evidence of the absence of any criminal conduct. If an investigation is commenced, Ben will cooperate fully and Ben will be fully exonerated," David Cornwell said in a statement.

The suit seeks at least \$440,000 in damages from the quarterback who won the Super Bowl this year and in 2006, and alleges hotel officials for Harrah's Lake Tahoe went to great lengths to cover up the incident. She's seeking \$50,000 in damages from the Harrah's officials.

The woman's lawsuit says

she didn't file a criminal complaint because she feared she would be fired and expected Harrah's would side with Roethlisberger.

The Steelers and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said they were looking into the allegations against Roethlisberger.

The woman was working as an executive casino host last July when Roethlisberger struck up a friendly conversation at her desk during the golf tournament.

The next night she said he telephoned her to tell her his television sound system wasn't working and asked her to look at it.

She said she was unable to find a technician so she decided to handle it herself because she had been told how important it was to please celebrities.

In Roethlisberger's room she said she determined the TV was functioning properly but as she turned to leave the quarterback stood in front of the door and blocked her, the suit claims.

The lawsuit said he then grabbed her, started to kiss her, fondled her, pushed her onto his bed and raped her, the suit says. She said she feared he could or would physically harm her if she tried to fight

him off but that she objected and protested several times.

Afterward, he asked if there was a security camera in the hallway. She said he then instructed her to claim she had repaired his television if anyone asked why she was in his room.

The lawsuit says the woman required hospitalization for treatment for depression after the alleged attack.

The woman's lawyer, Calvin R. Dunlap, of Reno, declined to answer questions about the lack of a criminal complaint and why the civil action was brought a year after the incident allegedly took place.

"Neither I nor our client will be making any comment," Dunlap said in an e-mail to AP. "We believe the matter should be resolved in court rather than in the media."

The lawsuit also names eight Harrah's employees as defendants and alleges the cover-up involved the chief of security at Harrah's Lake Tahoe and was carried out with the knowledge of John Koster, president of Harrah's northern Nevada operations. John Packer, spokesman for the hotel-casino, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

The suit says Harrah's security



This is a July 15, 2009, file photo showing Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger arriving at the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles. Roethlisberger has been accused of sexual assault in a civil lawsuit, his lawyer said, denying the claim. The lawsuit was filed Friday July 17, 2009, in Washoe County District Court, accusing Roethlisberger of assaulting a woman in July 2008.

Associated Press

chief Guy Hyder gained the trust of her parents while she was hospitalized for depression and persuaded them to give him a key to her home. She said Hyder and others then entered her home and allegedly erased information from her computer and confiscated it.

The lawsuit claims that when the woman first reported the attack to Hyder he dismissed her distress and crying and said she was "over reacting."

AL Roundup

Holliday's two homers lift Athletics



Oakland Athletics' Matt Holliday swings for a grand slam off Minnesota Twins' Bobby Keppel in the seventh inning of a baseball game Monday, July 20, 2009, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Matt Holliday hit a tying grand slam in the seventh inning and Jack Cust followed with another homer to help the Oakland Athletics rally from a 10-run deficit to beat the Minnesota Twins 14-13 in the American League on Monday. Holliday also had a two-run homer in the largest comeback in Oakland history. Craig Breslow (3-4) got the win and Michael Wuertz finished the 3-hour, 32-minute game for his third save in four chances. The game ended when Michael Cuddyer was thrown out trying to score from second on Wuertz's wild pitch. Cuddyer appeared to be safe and Twins manager Ron Gardenhire

stepped between him and plate umpire Mike Muchlinski as the outfielder argued the call. Cuddyer slammed his helmet down. Justin Morneau hit his second grand slam this season and a three-run homer for a career-high seven RBIs, but the Twins couldn't hold a 12-2 lead and matched their biggest collapse ever. Holliday connected for his fourth career slam off Jose Mijares (0-2) and had his 12th career multihomer game. Morneau hit his sixth career slam in the second to make it 8-2. **Yankees 2, Orioles 1** At New York, Hideki Matsui homered off Jim Johnson in the ninth inning to give the streaking New York a victory

over Baltimore. Matsui's home run off Johnson (3-4) extended the Yankees' winning streak to four since the All-Star break. Matsui's only other game-ending homer in the majors was July 17, 2003, against Cleveland's David Riske. New York (55-37), which moved into a first-place tie with Boston in the AL East, moved 18 games over .500 for first time since the end of 2007 season (94-68) with its third consecutive 2-1 win. The Yankees have won eight straight home games against the Orioles. Baltimore dropped to 1-12 on the road this year against AL East and has lost 25 of last 27 road games against division rivals dating to last July. Nick Markakis hit a first-inning homer off Andy Pettitte, and Eric Hinske's second-inning homer against David Hernandez tied it. **Rangers 6, Red Sox 3** At Arlington, Texas, David Murphy and Jarrod Saltalamacchia of Texas homered on consecutive pitches in the same inning that Michael Young led off with a long ball as Texas downed Boston. The Red Sox have lost three straight, scoring only six runs in those games. Kevin Millwood (9-7) left trailing 2-1 after six innings. The Rangers hit three homers

off John Smoltz (1-3) in the bottom of the sixth. Smoltz, making his fifth start since shoulder surgery last summer, hadn't allowed a home run in 25 innings this season until Young's leadoff homer tied the game 2-2. Murphy put Texas ahead to stay with his two-run shot. Saltalamacchia hit the next pitch and Smoltz was done. Smoltz hadn't allowed three homers in a game since June 8, 1997, while pitching for Atlanta. It was only the second time in his 21-year career to give up three homers in an inning. **White Sox 4, Rays 3** At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a three-run homer to back a solid start by Chicago's Gavin Floyd in a win over Tampa Bay. The Rays threatened in the eighth but did not score and loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth against Bobby Jenks before Jason Bartlett struck out to end the game. Scott Podsednik had three hits and scored twice, but Konerko's 18th homer was the difference as the White Sox won for the 13th time in 19 games. His homer in the third gave the White Sox a 4-1 lead. Floyd (8-6) went seven innings to improve to 6-2 in his last 11 starts. He gave up three hits — all homers. Ben Zobrist and Evan Longoria went deep and Carl Crawford had an inside-the-park homer. **In other AL games it was, N.Y. Yankees 2, Baltimore 1; Texas 6, Boston 3; Chicago White Sox 4, Tampa Bay 3; and Oakland 14, Minnesota 13.** □

NL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B10

Making just his seventh start for the Dodgers since signing a three-year, \$47 million contract in December 2006, Schmidt (1-0) threw 91 pitches over five innings and allowed three runs and five hits. Jonathan Broxton pitched a perfect ninth for his 23rd save. Owings gave up seven runs and nine hits in five innings, including Andre Ethier's 19th homer, while Cincinnati lost its 10th consecutive game at Chavez Ravine. At Philadelphia, Raul Ibanez hit a three-run homer, and Carlos Ruiz and Ryan Howard both went deep as Philadelphia beat Chicago for its ninth straight win. Ruiz had an RBI double during a four-run fourth inning for the NL East leaders. Rodrigo Lopez (2-0) allowed one run over six innings to give the Phillies their 13th win in their last 14 games. The Phillies are on their longest winning streak since 2006 and improved to 23-23 at home. At Atlanta, Tommy Hanson struck out 11 batters to remain unbeaten and Chipper Jones hit a two-run homer as Atlanta beat Jonathan Sanchez in his first start since his no-hitter. Matt Diaz had a tiebreaking two-run triple in Atlanta's six-run seventh inning, helping the Braves snap a five-game skid against San Francisco and Hanson improve to 5-0. Atlanta has won four of five and six of eight overall. Sanchez gave up three runs and four hits and struck out eight over six innings in his first game since his gem against San Diego on July 10. Sergio Romo (2-1) replaced Sanchez and failed to record an out, allowing four runs and four hits. Casey Kotchman had an RBI single after Diaz's hit and pinch-hitter Ryan Church greeted Justin Miller with a two-run homer. **In other NL games it was, Philadelphia 10, Chicago Cubs 1; Pittsburgh 8, Milwaukee 5; N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 2; Atlanta 11, San Francisco 3; Houston 3, St. Louis 2; Colorado 10, Arizona 6; Florida 3, San Diego 2; and L.A. Dodgers 7, Cincinnati 5.** □

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Alberto Contador of Spain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, right, looks at American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, as they climb Grand-Saint-Bernard pass during the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 98.8 miles with start in Martigny, Switzerland and finish in Bourg-Saint-Maurice, Alps region, France, Tuesday July 21, 2009.

Associated Press

16TH STAGE

Continued from Page B10

Contador, the 2007 Tour winner and pre-race favorite this year, said he struggled to fight off an attack led by brothers Andy and Frank Schleck of Luxembourg in the day's second big climb. "We had expected (an attack) and I gave my maximum. I could resist but not without difficulty," Contador said. "I'm happy after this difficult day."

Astarloza, a 29-year-old rider on the Euskadi Euskaltel team, thrust his fists in the air and kissed his fingers as he crossed the line in 4 hours, 14 minutes, 20 seconds — six seconds before French riders Sandy Casar and Pierrick Fedrigo.

With about 1.2 miles to go, the Spaniard escaped three other breakaway riders with him and held on through the finish to collect his first Tour stage win.

"I was lucky to leave alone and finish alone," Astarloza said. "I'm a complete rider, but I'm not good at the sprint — so I have to attack from far away."

"This is the biggest day of my career."

Contador, Armstrong, fourth-place teammate Andreas Kloezen, and third-place Bradley Wiggins of Britain all crossed 59 seconds after Astarloza.

Overall, Contador leads Armstrong by 1:37. Wiggins is third, 1:46 back, while Kloezen is 2:17 behind and Andy Schleck is fifth, trailing by 2:26.

Armstrong retained his spot only after playing catch-up.

With about 22.6 miles left, Andy Schleck attacked. He was quickly joined by Contador and a few other riders — but not Armstrong.

The Texan, after dropping back by a maximum of about 35 seconds, then mustered a dazzling acceleration to rejoin that small group of favorites, which included Schleck, Contador and Wiggins. "I just didn't want follow that quick acceleration like I tried to do on Verbier" — the first Alpine stage on Sunday, Armstrong said. "I've stayed with the other group, and then I realized the race was basically going away from us."

"So, I had no choice other than trying to make the cross," Armstrong said. "So I waited until we had a steeper section and then I got away with an acceleration."

Contador said he was impressed.

"It's easy to explain — he's a very great rider," the Spaniard said of Armstrong. "He was in the past, and he showed it once again." Two-time runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia, who finished 3:55 back, was one of the big losers on the day. He fell to 17th from 14th and now trails Contador by 7:23.

Riders scaled the highest peak at the Tour this year, the snowcapped Grand-Saint-Bernard pass on the Swiss-Italian border — at 8,113 feet. Its sister, the Petit-Saint-Bernard pass on the Italian-French border, was the days other big climb, and each was at least 13.5 miles long. □

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La comunidad internacional presiona a Micheletti para que acepte el plan de Arias

Bogotá (EFE) - La comunidad internacional aumentó ayer la presión sobre el presidente interino de Honduras, Roberto Micheletti, para que acepte la propuesta de Costa Rica encaminada a resolver la crisis política, en medio de advertencias sobre el riesgo de una confrontación en ese país.

La secretaria de Estado de EE.UU., Hillary Clinton, llamó a Micheletti desde Nueva Delhi, donde se encuentra de visita, para advertirle de "las posibles consecuencias de unas negociaciones fallidas".

El portavoz del Departamento de Estado, Philip Crowley, informó que Clinton dejó claro a Micheletti la necesidad de que se restaure el orden constitucional con una solución pacífica y apoyó la mediación del mandatario costarricense, Oscar Arias.

La conversación, que Crowley calificó como "muy dura", es la de más alto nivel que ha mantenido la Administración del presidente Barack Obama con Micheletti, a quien no reconoce como jefe de Estado legítimo.

Micheletti rechazó el plan presentado por Arias para solucionar el conflicto, que prevé el adelantamiento de las elecciones a octubre y la formación de un Gobierno de unidad nacional hasta 2010, una propuesta que sí fue aceptada por Manuel Zelaya, expulsado del poder por los militares el pasado 28

de junio.

Por su parte, el secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), José Miguel Insulza, vislumbró un escenario de confrontación, si el "Gobierno de facto" encabezado por Micheletti insiste en permanecer en el poder.

"Es casi imposible" evitar la violencia o "hacer llamados a la calma, cuando la dictadura pretende a vista y paciencia de toda la gente quedarse en el poder", declaró Insulza a la radio Cooperativa de Chile.

"Arias dio un tiempo de espera de 72 horas para que se cambien las posiciones, es decir, sobre todo para que el Gobierno de facto flexibilice su posición", apuntó.

En una sesión del Consejo Permanente de la OEA, convocada para evaluar el proceso de diálogo, el ex ministro chileno manifestó su "pleno respaldo" a Arias y al plazo de 72 horas que solicitó para hacer "recapacitar a los que han rechazado" su propuesta.

Por su parte, el embajador de Costa Rica ante la OEA, José Enrique Castillo, aseguró que las "negociaciones no han fracasado", sino que "progresaron significativamente", luego de que Zelaya aceptara "todos los puntos" del plan.

Además, destacó que la delegación de Micheletti "no

ha rechazado la propuesta de acuerdo" del Premio Nobel de la Paz de 1987, al explicar que Arias solicitó el plazo a petición de dicha comitiva, que necesita las 72 horas para hacer consultas con los otros poderes de Honduras.

A juicio de Castillo, "la mediación está muy bien encaminada", y, aunque admitió: "todavía no tenemos garantías de éxito", se mostró confiado en que el proceso concluya el miércoles.

Desde Buenos Aires, la comisaria europea de Relaciones Exteriores, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, hizo un llamamiento a la calma en Honduras y pidió a las partes en conflicto evitar cualquier acto que "haga escalar la tensión" y "dar los pasos necesarios que permitan solucionar esta crisis pacíficamente".

Lamentó que no se haya alcanzado un acuerdo con base en las propuestas de Arias, pero a su vez dijo estar "animada" por el hecho que de las "negociaciones serán retomadas pronto".

Ferrero-Waldner confirmó, además, la "difícil decisión" de congelar 65,5 millones de euros de ayuda presupuestaria directa al Gobierno hondureño, la cual podría ser suspendida en caso de que Zelaya no sea restituido en la jefatura de Estado. □

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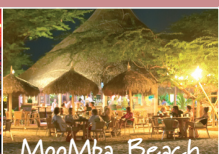
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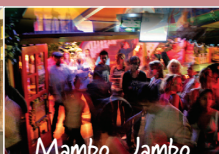
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